

Press Release

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**Sopra
Newell
&
Budge**

Sopra Newell & Budge and IIZUKA Software Technologies rollout first phase of the 101 IT system in Northumberland and Tyne and Wear

Sopra Newell & Budge, a leader in consulting and IT services, today announced the successful first stage roll out of the information system to underpin the new 101 Single Non-Emergency Number programme due for full public launch in July this year.

Sopra Newell & Budge was appointed earlier this year to build and maintain the new IT system for the Northumbria Partnership. Northumbria is one of five first 'wave' police and local authority partnerships to deliver a core 101 service in 2006 in advance of a nationwide roll out in 2008. Under the programme, funded by the Home Office and Department for Communities and Local Government, the 101 service will deliver an innovative service providing the UK public with a new, easy to remember 3 digit number to access community safety advice, information and allow the report of vandalism, anti-social behaviour and other similarly non emergency incidents. This will greatly reduce the burden on the 999 service.

Sopra Newell & Budge, as prime contractor, provided specialist Project Management, Testing and Security services as well as ongoing Hosting and providing application support. They worked in close partnership IIZUKA Software Technologies who provide the software at the heart of the system through their rapid development KOZO® platform and functional components.

Peter Coates, Northumbria 101 Project Manager, commented "As part of wave one of the 101 programme we were required to implement, as a minimum, the nationally agreed "Core Service" by July 2006. With the tight timescales, we required a prime contractor we could rely on to develop and support the technology solution which would underpin this. Sopra Newell & Budge and IIZUKA Software Technologies extensive experience in the public sector meant that they had a thorough understanding of our requirements. Their proposed approach to the project provided a flexible yet robust way of working which we believe will facilitate the delivery of a fit for purpose system within challenging timescales."

The new information system will capture details of calls regarding non emergencies from members of the public and notify the relevant organisation that action is required. The system is flexibly designed to allow new integrated facilities to be added in the future. At launch, the system will be accessed from up to 13 different locations across Northumberland and Tyne and Wear and by organisations including Northumbria Police Force, the five Tyne & Wear local



authorities, Northumberland County Council and six district authorities. The system is fundamental to the Partnership's ability to deliver an effective and efficient Single Non Emergency Number Service.

Ann Budge, Chief Executive of Sopra Newell & Budge commented

"This is an extremely important project for Public Services both locally in Northumbria and nationally, we are very privileged to be part of it. At Sopra Newell & Budge, we have a commitment to the public sector and enabling improved service provision to citizens through efficient use of technology. We look forward to seeing the results of this project and its impact on improving people's lives and environment."

Greg Hayes, Managing Director of IIZUKA™ Software Technologies said

"With our partners Sopra Newell & Budge, we are proud to apply our agile and cost effective computing methodology to such an important project. Having been involved in the first phase we are excited to see how the 101 number will be adopted nationally".

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

Scope of Wave 1 Single Non-Emergency Number

The initial scope of the 101 service has been developed through research with the general public, and in consultation with a wide group of stakeholders. The core service will cover: Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property, noisy neighbours, intimidation and harassment, abandoned vehicles, rubbish or litter, people being drunk or rowdy in public places, drug related anti-social behaviour; and street lighting.

About Sopra Newell & Budge (www.sopranewellandbudge.com)

Sopra Newell & Budge provides a complete range of IT consultancy, delivery and support services, allowing us to offer clients specific areas of expertise, or full end to end solutions. By applying both technical skills and consulting techniques we work with organisations to streamline their businesses and improve their operational effectiveness.

Our industry knowledge is extensive, with particular depth in finance, public sector, telecoms, utilities and manufacturing - meaning we don't just understand the technical issues that our clients face, but also the business context in which they operate. That's why organisations like The Royal Bank of Scotland, Axa, Orange, easyJet and McDonald's as well as a number of large Government Departments have worked with us for many years.

Sopra Newell & Budge has a workforce of over 750 based across the UK and Ireland. In addition we have over 150 technical staff based at our offshore centre in India. As part of the Sopra Group we have access to a total workforce of around 9,000 highly qualified staff based throughout Europe. This provides our clients with an extensive range of resources and best practice approaches.

Our focus is on local presence combined with global delivery capability. We base our offices close to our clients which means that client support and project delivery is local, whether fulfilled from your premises, within our technical centres across the UK or from our offshore centre in India.

About IIZUKA Software Technologies (www.iizuka.co.uk)

KOZO® Technology is made up of the KOZO Platform and library of software component suites. These are implemented by IIZUKA using its KOZO Methodology to create software systems that solve the unique problems of its customers.

The KOZO® Platform

The KOZO Platform provides the flexibility and scalability demanded by this project. The tried and tested platform allows the components to be accessed from a range of environments, such as the web, desktop or mobile device. The KOZO Platform also enables the components to communicate with each other and with other resources, such as databases and other applications with a number of supporting functions such as transaction management, automatic parameter conversion and customer data renderers.

KOZO® Component Suites

The KOZO Component Suites are sets of smaller components that have been grouped together according to the functions they provide. Each Suite has a general function but handles many different types of data and has any number of detailed functions. Through the KOZO Methodology IIZUKA combines these Suites together and wires them up to give the unique solution required by a customer.

Each suite contains a web user interface as standard and these can be merged together to give the customer a seamless view of the application made up from the suites. IIZUKA licenses the suites to its customers on a per-site or per-user basis.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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